

## **CCSSL Covid Safety Protocols**

Give the wealth of “social media” outlets available today, there are an overabundant “sources” regarding the corona virus. “Masks work”...“Masks don’t”; “Surface contact results in minimum infection”....“Wash your hands numerous times a day”; and, the best one, “The virus is all a government hoax !!”

People have differing opinions as to what is needed and/or appropriate to safe guard ourselves and loved ones from sickness. The Board of the CCSSL has developed these protocols for our league to try and assure the safety of our players as much as possible but there are always unforeseen issues in any physical competition. Therefore players should be diligent to follow these protocols but may also add to them at their own discretion. Until such time until the COVID threat has passed, players will be required to adhere to these protocols while playing in our league. Should the State and/or local guidelines change, the CCSSL will adjust these protocols accordingly.

**1. If you have any symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat), do not come to play. Please stay at home.**

2. **Masks:** It has been documented by medical experts that wearing a cloth mask does not protect the wearer from infection. However, it’s been clearly established that the purpose of the mask is to protect others around us. Only an N95 quality mask will protect the wearer. **So, all players will be required to wear a mask around their neck at all times (\*see below\*)** **Simply put, NO MASK NO PLAY.** However, the mask must be only worn over their nose and mouth under the following conditions:

a. For members of the team at bat:

(1.) All members of the batting team must social distance (at least 6 feet apart) **or** cover their mouth and nose with a mask. If players on a team do not do this, the first time a warning will be issued, subsequent occurrences **by anyone on the team** will result in an “out” to the team.

(2.) When a player is on base, if a defensive player is within 6 feet and wearing a mask, the runner must cover his/her nose and mouth with the mask. The first time a warning will be issued, subsequent occurrences **by the player** will result in the runner being called “out.”

b. For members of the team in the field:

- (1.) The catcher must cover his/her nose and mouth OR be at least 6 feet (minimum social dist) behind the batter
- (2.) If a runner reaches base, the baseman must cover his/her nose and mouth OR stand at least 6 feet away from the runner. If field players do not do this, the runner will be awarded the next base.

**Summary: "If a player is within your social distance (6 ft minimum), you must put your mask over your mouth and nose."**

**Example of masks that are easy to wear and pull up, if necessary, but any "nose and mouth" covering will work. The only requirement is that it must be worn throughout the game and pulled over the nose and mouth when necessary.**



String mask



Ear loop mask  
w/string



Simple bandanna  
(recommended)

3. **Bats:** All players should have, and use. Their own bat.
  - a. Players should keep their bat in, or near, their bat bag. Each player should use only his/her bat. NO BATS IN THE BAT RACK.
  - b. If a player doesn't have a bat, the manager may designate a "team bat" for use by that player. This bat will be placed at the backstop on the team's side of the field. Should multiple players have need to use the ONE team bat, it is each player's responsibility to wipe that bat with disinfectant prior to using it. A player knowing that he/she will need to use the team bat should provide their own disinfectant wipes.
  - c. If the player at bat gets a hit, the batter who is to bat after the batter on deck should pick up the bat by the barrel with a batting glove and return it to the fence for the owner to retrieve.
  - d. At the end of the inning, all bats should be returned to their proper place by their owners. "Team bat" laid down by the backstop.
4. **Game Balls:** Each team is to provide a new game ball for use when the team is in the field. The pitcher will be responsible for taking the ball on and off the field. The pitcher may sanitize the ball every inning or as he/she sees fit. The league will provide 1 package of sanitizing wipes to the pitcher expressly for this purpose. Should a ball go out of play (foul etc). the team on the field should have a backup ball ready to go until the game ball is returned.

Note: Since pitchers and catchers handle the ball the most during a game, it is strongly recommended that these players wear a glove on their throwing hand for extra protection.
5. **Pre-Game batting:** Each team may take pre-game batting under the following conditions:
  - a. Teams will use tournament batting practice. – Batters hit from 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> into their own team half of the outfield.
  - b. Teams should provide their own practice balls. NO SHARING
  - c.. Batting practice is limited to 5 hits per player.

6. **End of the game congratulations:** - NO SHAKING OF HANDS, BUMPING ELBOWS, HIGH FIVES OR ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT. It is recommended that players simply wish each other "Good Game".

7. **Hand-sanitizer:** It is suggested that every player bring their own bottle and use it frequently during games. Also, **it is very important to refrain from touching your face at anytime during play. If the virus happens to be on a surface you touch, then touching your face exponentially increases the chance of you contracting it.**

All of the current rules and regulations for play in the CCSL are still in place. For the 2020 season a "Veer Rule" will be in affect at BOTH 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. If the base is occupied, or about to be occupied, by an infielder, the runner MUST veer.

**"2020 Veer Rule"** – In the judgement of the umpire if a player crosses the plane of the base that he/she is going to prior to the fielder at that base having control of the ball, the runner will be declared safe."

Frankly, none of us want to play softball under these conditions. We would all like softball and our lives to be back the "way they were". The Board sincerely appreciates your cooperation in following these protocols.

*Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.*

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(please tear here and return the section below to your manager)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read the CCSL protocols for the 2020  
(print name)  
softball season and I agree to abide by them. I will do my best to insure the safety and health of all of my fellow players.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_